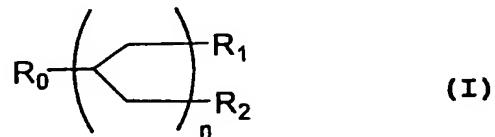
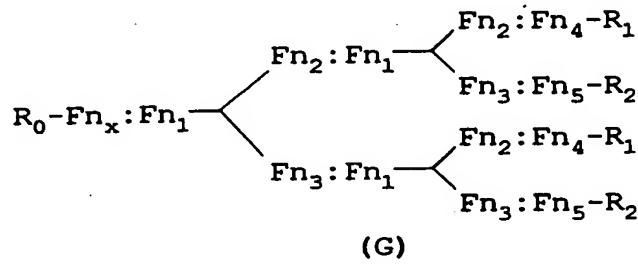


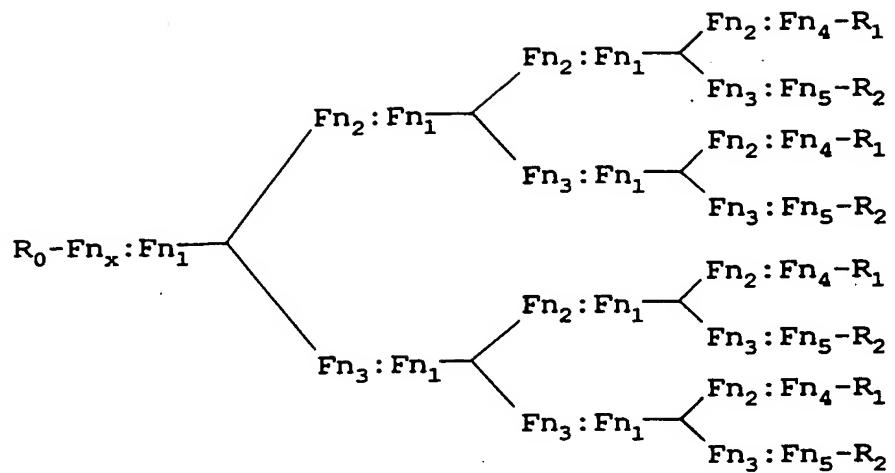
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having general formula (I):

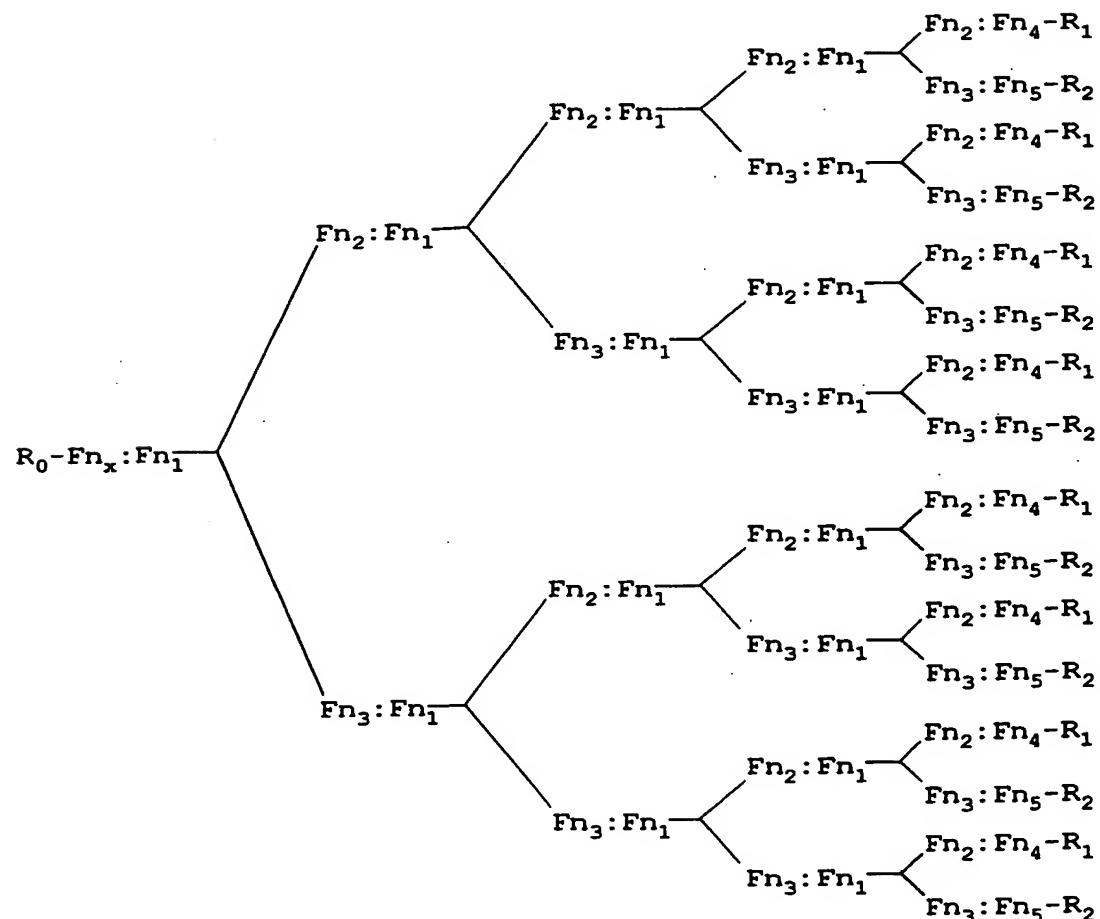


which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (G), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (H), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (J):





(H)



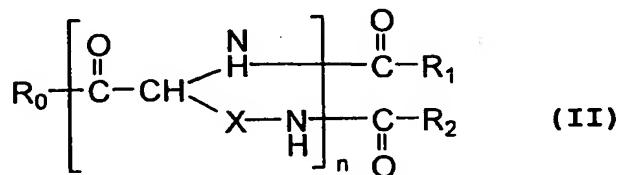
(J)

where  $F_{n_x}$ ,  $F_{n_1}$ ,  $F_{n_2}$ ,  $F_{n_3}$ ,  $F_{n_4}$  and  $F_{n_5}$  respectively represents a functional reactive group, each of which is bonded to a neighboring functional reactive group;  $R_0$  is a hydrophilic group poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, or a poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative;  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently a hydrophobic group; and  $n$  is an integer of 2 to 4.

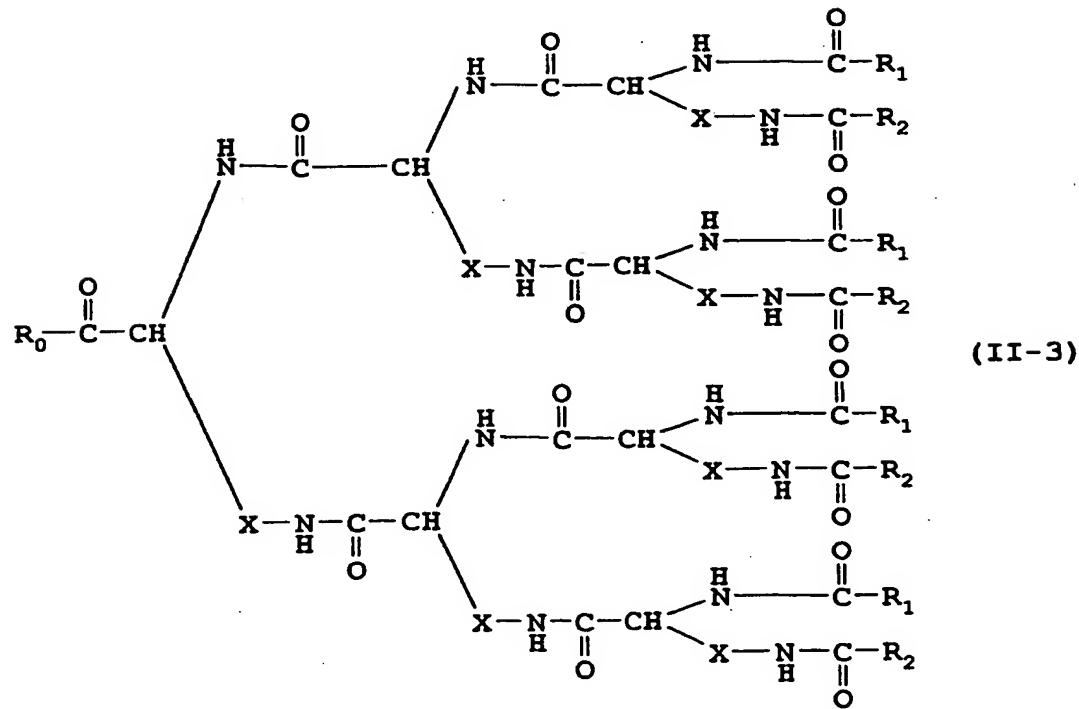
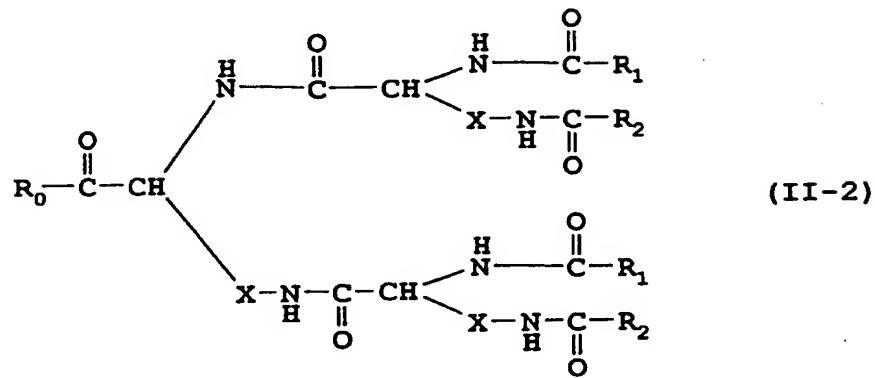
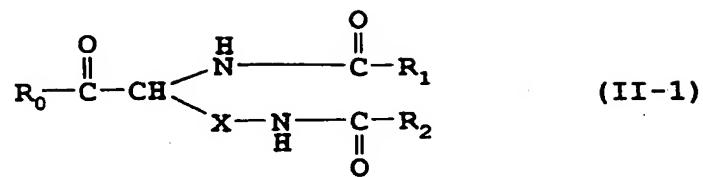
Claim 2 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 1, wherein said functional reactive group is bonded through amide bond or ester bond.

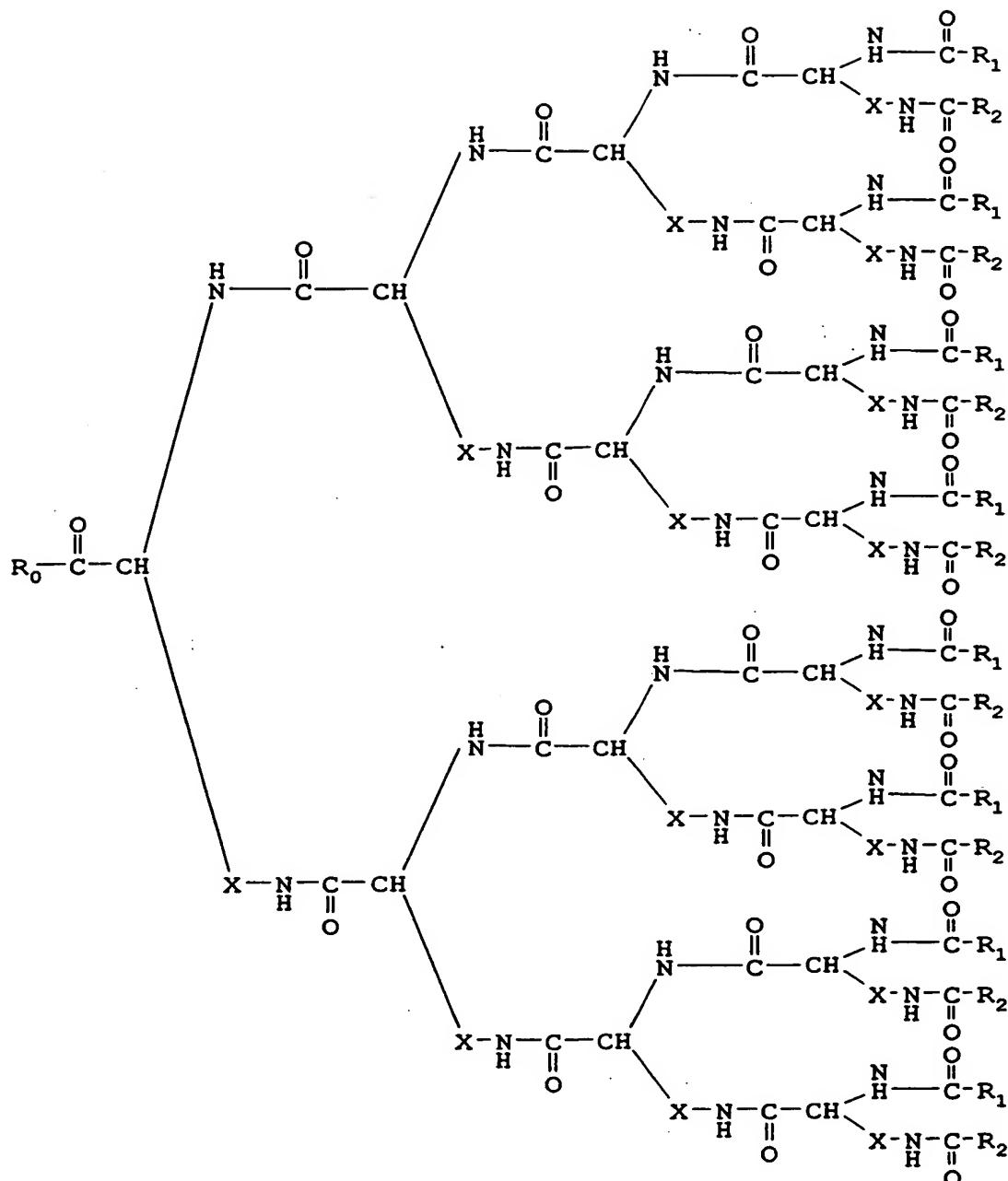
Claims 3-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having general formula (II):



which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-1), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-2), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-3), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-4):





where  $R_0$  is a hydrophilic group;  $X$  is  $-(CH_2)_4-$  or  $-(CH_2)_p-CO-$  (wherein  $p$  is 1 or 2); each of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  ~~are~~ is independently a hydrophobic an alkyl group; and  $n$  is an integer of 1 to 4.

**Claim 6 (Original):** The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said compound is represented by said formula (11-2), said formula (11-3) or said formula (11-4).

**Claim 7 (Canceled)**

**Claim 8 (Currently Amended):** The amphiphilic compound according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 5, wherein said alkyl group contains 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

**Claims 9-10 (Canceled)**

**Claim 11 (Original):** The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said  $R_0$  is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

**Claim 12 (Original):** The amphiphilic compound according to claim 6, wherein said  $R_0$  is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

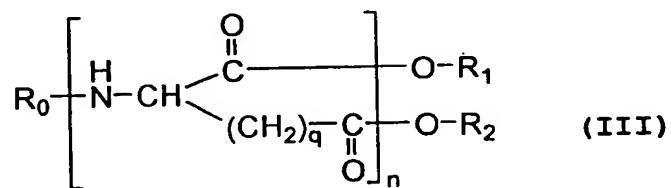
**Claim 13 (Original):** The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said  $R_0$  is represented by a formula:

$R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH-$  or  $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH-$  where  $R$  is  $H-$ ,  $CH_3-$ ,  $CH_3C(O)-$ ,  $HOOCCH_2-$ ,  $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2-$ , or poly- or oligo-peptides; and  $m$  is an integer of 1 to 3000.

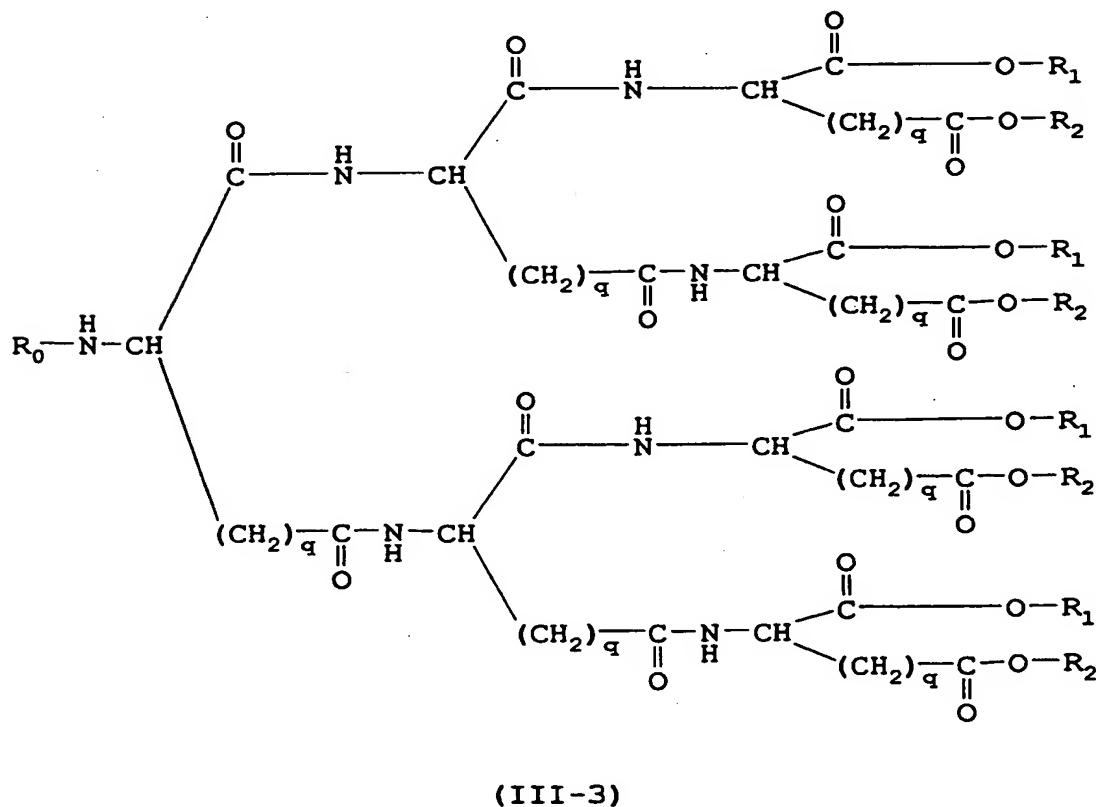
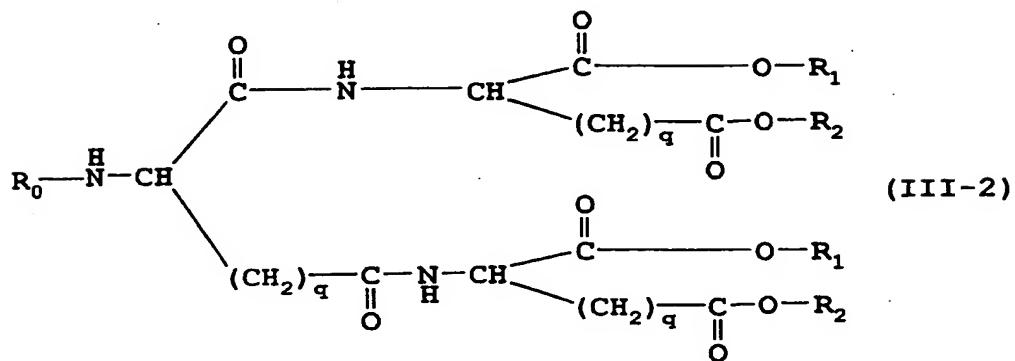
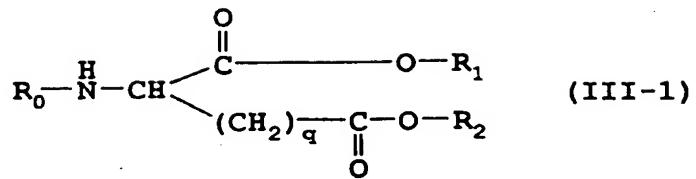
Claim 14 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 6, wherein said  $R_0$  is represented by a formula:

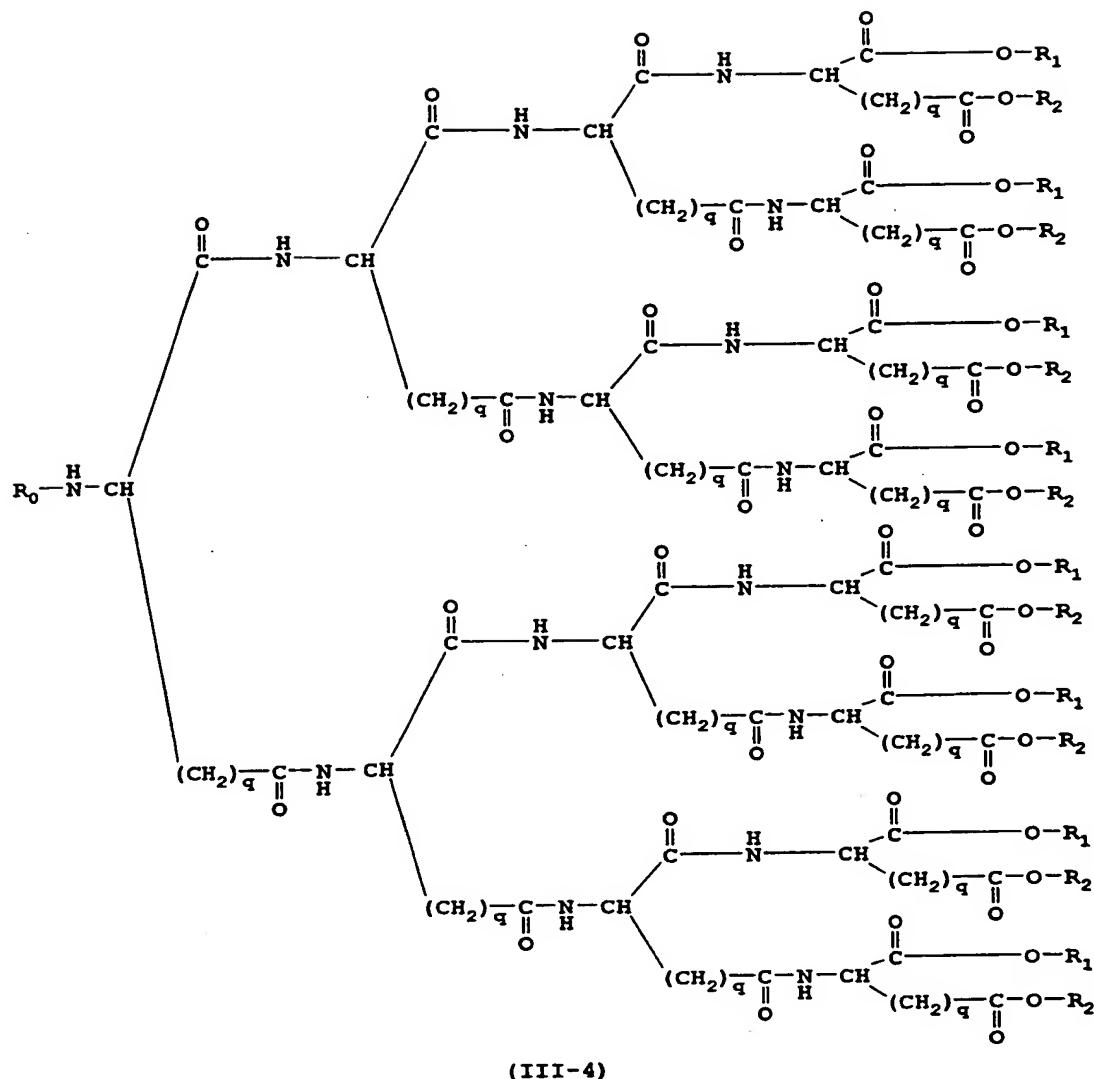
$R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH-$  or  $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH-$  where  $R$  is  $H$ -,  $CH_3$ -,  $CH_3C(O)-$ ,  $HOOCCH_2-$ ,  $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2-$  or poly- or oligo-peptides; and  $m$  is an integer of 1 to 3000.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having following general formula (III):



which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-1), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-2), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-3), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-4):





where  $R_0$  is a hydrophilic group; each of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are is independently a hydrophobic an alkyl group;  $n$  is an integer of 1 to 4 and  $q$  is 1 or 2.

Claim 16 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said compound is represented by said formula (III-2), said formula (III-3) or said formula (III-4).

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 17 claim 15, wherein said alkyl group contains 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said  $R_0$  is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

Claim 22 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 16, wherein said  $R_0$  is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

Claim 23 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said  $R_0$  is represented by a formula:

$R\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_m\text{CH}_2\text{NH-}$  or  $R\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_m\text{OCH}_2\text{C(O)NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH-}$  (wherein R is H-,  $\text{CH}_3\text{-}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{C(O)-}$ ,  $\text{HOOCCH}_2\text{-}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHC(O)CH}_2\text{-}$  or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.

**Claim 24 (Original):** The amphiphilic compound according to claim 16, wherein said  $R_0$  is represented by a formula:  
 $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH-$  or  $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH-$  wherein R is H-,  $CH_3-$ ,  $CH_3C(O)-$ ,  $HOOCCH_2-$ ,  $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2-$  or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.